DESCRIPTION

TRANSMISSION APPARATUS AND TRANSMISSION METHOD

5   Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a transmission apparatus and transmission method for performing retransmission of erroneous data.

10   Background Art

[0002]   The technique conventionally used in communication systems having channel conditions with low reliability and varying with time is to perform error correction based on an Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)

15   system and Forward Error Correction (FEC) technique, and called hybrid ARQ (HARQ). When an error is detected by well-used Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC), a receiving section in the communication system requests a transmitting section to retransmit a data packet that

20   is erroneously received (for example, Non-patent Document 1 and Non-patent Document 2).

Disclosure of Invention

[0003]   The ARQ system includes three different types,

25   types I to III.

[0004]   Type I is a scheme where a received packet containing an error is discarded, a new copy of the same

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packet is separately retransmitted and decoded, and previous and new packets received are not combined.

[0005] Type II is a scheme where a received packet containing an error is not discarded, and combined with an additionally retransmitted packet, and decoding is continuously performed. The retransmitted packet has a relatively high coding rate (coding gain), and is sometimes combined with stored soft-information obtained from previous transmission in a receiving section.

[0006] Type III is almost the same as aforementioned type II, and a scheme where each retransmitted packet can automatically be decoded. This means that a transmitted packet can be decoded without being combined with a previous packet, and such a scheme is useful when part of a packet is so damaged that the information can hardly be reused.

[0007] FIG.1 is a diagram illustrating mapping of each symbol in an 8PSK modulation scheme. In 8PSK, since eight mapping positions exist in the IQ plane, three bits can be included and transmitted in a single symbol. In each symbol, a most significant bit a1 is a first bit, bit a2 next to the most significant bit a1 is a second bit, and a least significant bit a3 is a third bit.

[Non-patent Document 1] S. Kallel, "Analysis of a type II hybrid ARQ scheme with code combining", IEEE Transactions on Communications, Vol.38, No.8, August 1990

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[Non-patent Document 2] S. Kallel, R. Link, S. Bakhtiyari, "Throughput performance of Memory ARQ schemes", IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology, Vol.48, No.3, May 1999

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Disclosure of Invention

Problems to be Solved by the Invention

[0008] In the conventional transmission apparatus and transmission method, retransmission data of each symbol is retransmitted in the same propagation path as that in the first transmission, and such a problem arises that an error occurs in the same data repeatedly. Then, when an error occurs in the same data repeatedly, the retransmission is repeated, which results in another problem that the throughput deteriorates.

[0009] Further, in the conventional transmission apparatus and transmission method, in each symbol, decision regions of the first and second bits are different from a decision region of the third bit, and error rate characteristics are thus different between the first and second bits and third bit, resulting in another problem that the error rate characteristic of the third bit degrades.

[0010] FIGs.2 to 4 are diagrams showing the decision regions respectively for bits a1 to a3. FIG.2 is a diagram showing a decision region of the first bit, and the first

bit can be decided using a line with an angle of 22.5 degrees from the I axis as threshold #10. In other words, section 1 above threshold #10 is a decision region for "0", while section 2 under threshold #10 is a decision

5   region for "1".

[0011]   FIG.3 is a diagram showing a decision region of the second bit, and the second bit can be decided using a line with an angle of 67.5 degrees from the I axis as threshold #11. In other words, section 1 under threshold

10   #11 is a decision region for "0", while section 2 above threshold #11 is a decision region for "1".

[0012]   FIG.4 is a diagram showing a decision region of the third bit, and the third bit can be decided using thresholds #12 and #13. In other words, section 1 that

15   is under threshold #12 and above threshold #13 is a decision region for "0", section 2 that is above threshold #12 and above threshold #13 is a decision region for "1", section 3 that is above threshold #12 and under threshold #13 is a decision region for "0", and section 4 that is

20   under threshold #12 and under threshold #13 is a decision region for "1".

[0013]   It is understood from FIGs.2 to 4 that two decision regions exist for each of the first and second bits, while four regions exist for the third bit.

25   Accordingly, a Euclidean distance between decision regions for "0" and "1" in the third bit is smaller than a Euclidean distance between decision regions for "0"

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and "1" in each of the first and second bits, and a problem arises that the third bit tends to be erroneous easier than the first and second bits. When an error occurs in the third bit, a method of retransmitting the data is considered, but the error rate characteristic of the third bit of the retransmission data still has a higher possibility of degradation than that of the first and second bits, resulting in a problem that the throughput deteriorates by repeating retransmissions.

[0014] It is an object of the present invention to provide a transmission apparatus and transmission method capable of preventing degrading of the error rate characteristic and further preventing deterioration of throughput caused by repeated retransmissions.

Means for Solving the Problem

[0015] A transmission apparatus of the present invention adopts a configuration provided with an arrangement determiner that determines a constellation mapping position indicating an arrangement position of each symbol data in the IQ plane when transmission data is retransmitted so that the constellation mapping position becomes different from that in a last transmission, a data assigner that assigns transmission data to each symbol so that each symbol data with the same amplitude is arranged in the constellation mapping position determined by the arrangement determiner, and

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a transmitter that transmits the transmission data that is assigned to each symbol by the data assigner.

[0016] Further, a transmission apparatus of the invention adopts a configuration provided with a data interchanger that interchanges predetermined bits of transmission data so that a bit arrangement of each symbol, when the transmission data is retransmitted, becomes different from that in a last transmission, a data assigner that assigns the transmission data interchanged by the data interchanger to each symbol so that each of a plurality of items of symbol data with the same amplitude is arranged in a constellation mapping position indicating an arrangement position of each symbol of the transmission data in the IQ plane, and a transmitter that transmits the transmission data that is assigned to each symbol by the data assigner.

[0017] A transmission method of the invention has the steps of determining a constellation mapping position indicating an arrangement position of each symbol in the IQ plane when transmission data is retransmitted so that the constellation mapping position in retransmitting transmission data becomes different from that in a last transmission, assigning transmission data to each symbol so that each symbol data is arranged in the determined constellation mapping position, and transmitting the transmission data assigned to each symbol.

Advantageous effect of the invention

[0018] According to the invention, it is possible to prevent the error rate characteristic from degrading, while further preventing deterioration of the throughput

5 caused by repeated retransmissions.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0019]

FIG.1 is a diagram showing conventional constellation

10 mapping;

FIG.2 is another diagram showing the conventional constellation mapping;

FIG.3 is another diagram showing the conventional constellation mapping;

15 FIG.4 is still another diagram showing the conventional constellation mapping;

FIG.5 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of a communication system according to an Embodiment of the invention;

20 FIG.6 shows a table storing rule selection information according to the Embodiment of the invention;

FIG.7 is a diagram showing constellation mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention;

FIG.8 is another diagram showing the constellation

25 mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention;

FIG.9 is another diagram showing the constellation mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention;

FIG.10 is another diagram showing the constellation mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention;

FIG.11 is another diagram showing the constellation mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention;

5   FIG.12 is another diagram showing the constellation mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention;

FIG.13 is another diagram showing the constellation mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention;

FIG.14 is another diagram showing the constellation

10 mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention; and

FIG.15 is still another diagram showing the constellation mapping according to the Embodiment of the invention.

15 Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

[0020] An Embodiment of the invention will specifically be described below with reference to accompanying drawings.

20 [0021] (Embodiment)

FIG.5 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of communication system 100 according to an embodiment of the invention. Transmission apparatus 101 is configured with arrangement determining section 103,

25 interleaver 104, data interchanging section 105, mapper section 106, and modulation section 107. Reception apparatus 102 is configured with arrangement judging

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section 109, demodulation section 110, demapper section 111, data interchanging section 112 and deinterleaver 113.

[0022] From number-of-transmission information, arrangement determining section 103 determines in an initial transmission to perform general constellation mapping predetermined for each modulation scheme, and determines in a retransmission to vary whether a constellation mapping position or a bit arrangement of each symbol according to the number of retransmissions. Arrangement determining section 103 instructs mapper section 106 to vary a constellation mapping position when determining to vary the constellation mapping position, while instructing data interchanging section 105 to vary a bit arrangement when determining to vary the bit arrangement.

[0023] Interleaver 104 rearranges transmission data for each bit and outputs to data interchanging section 105. Data interchanging section 105 interchanges the transmission data input from interleaver 104 for each bit on a symbol basis (one symbol contains three bits in 8PSK) so as to be arranged in the bit arrangement determined by arrangement determining section 103 in accordance with the instruction of arrangement determining section 103. In case of 8PSK, data interchanging section 105 performs processing of dividing a data sequence for each symbol so that one symbol contains

three bits, and subsequently, performs interchanging processing for each bit on each symbol. Then, data interchanging section 105 outputs the transmission data interchanged for each bit to mapper section 106. When arrangement determining section 103 determines only to vary a constellation mapping position of symbol data,, i.e. when data interchanging section 105 is not instructed from arrangement determining section 103, the transmission data input from interleaver 104 is output from data interchanging section 105 to mapper section 106 without any processing. A method for interchanging transmission data for each bit will be described later.

[0024] Mapper section 106 that is a data assigner, in accordance with the instruction of arrangement determining section, configures (maps) the transmission data input from data interchanging section 105 in each symbol so as to be mapped in the constellation mapping position determined by arrangement determining section 103. Mapper section 106 outputs the transmission data configured in each symbol to modulation section 107. Meanwhile, when not instructed anything from arrangement determining section 103, mapper section 106 configures the transmission data in each symbol so as to be mapped in a general constellation mapping position predetermined for each modulation scheme. In addition, a method will be described later for varying the constellation mapping position of each symbol data.

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[0025]   Modulation   section   107   modulates   the transmission data input from mapper section 106 with a predetermined modulation scheme and outputs to channel 108.   In addition, when transmission data is transmitted by   radio   signal,   the   transmission   data   output   from modulation section 107 is upconverted from a baseband frequency   to   radio   frequency   and   transmitted   from   an antenna via a radio communication channel.

[0026]   Channel 108 is generally a radio communication channel and transmits the transmission data transmitted from transmission apparatus 101 to reception apparatus 102.

[0027]   Arrangement   judging   section   109   knows   the constellation   mapping   position   or   bit   arrangement corresponding to the number-of-transmission information shared with arrangement determining section 103.   Then, arrangement judging section 109 does not output anything in an initial reception, and when receiving retransmitted data,   generates   restoration   information   to   restore   the constellation mapping position of the received data to a general constellation mapping position corresponding to the number-of-transmission information, and outputs the   generated   restoration   information   to   data interchanging section 112 or demapper section 111.   More specifically, when arrangement judging section receives the data where a bit arrangement of each symbol is varied, the   restoration   information   is   output   to   data

interchanging section 112, while when receives the data where a constellation mapping position of each symbol data is varied, the restoration information is output to demapper section 111.

5   [0028]   Demodulation section 110 demodulates the received data to output to demapper section 111. More specifically, demodulation section 110 configures (maps) the received data in the constellation mapping position for each bit, and decides "1" and "0" of the received

10   data for each bit using a threshold based on the constellation mapping position where the data is mapped.

[0029]   According to the restoration information input from arrangement judging section 109, with respect to the received data input from demodulation section 110,

15   demapper section 111 re-configures the transmission data so as to be arranged in the general constellation mapping position, and obtains a predetermined reception data sequence to output to data interchanging section 112. Meanwhile, when the restoration information is not input

20   from arrangement judging section 109, demapper section 111 obtains a predetermined reception data sequence without re-placing the transmission data and outputs to data interchanging section 112.

[0030]   According to the restoration information input

25   from arrangement judging section 109 , data interchanging section 112 interchanges each bit data for each symbol data with respect to the received data input from demapper

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section 111. Then, data interchanging section 112 outputs the received data interchanged for each bit to deinterleaver 113. In addition, when receiving the data where only the constellation mapping position of symbol data is varied, i.e. not receiving anything from arrangement judging section 109, data interchanging section 112 outputs the received data input from demapper section 111 to deinterleaver 113 without any processing.

[0031] Deinterleaver 113 rearranges the received data input from data interchanging section 112 and obtains reception data.

[0032] With reference to FIGs.6 to 15, a method will be described below for varying the constellation mapping position in the 8PSK modulation scheme.

[0033] Arrangement determining section 103 holds a rule table that stores rule selection information as shown in FIG.6, and selects a rule to interchange data by using the number-of-transmission information and referring to the rule table.

[0034] When the number of transmissions is one (in an initial transmission that is not a retransmission), arrangement determining section 103 determines Constellation 1 that is a constellation pattern to map in general constellation mapping positions of 8PSK as shown in FIG.1.

[0035] When the number of transmission is two (in a first retransmission), arrangement determining section 103

determines Constellation 2 as a constellation pattern. More specifically, arrangement determining section 103 selects a SWAP method as a data interchanging rule of the constellation pattern. The SWAP method includes

5 three schemes as shown in FIGs.7 to 9. In other words, as shown in FIG.7, the first scheme is to interchange data of the first bit and data of the second bit in each symbol data. As shown in FIG.8, the second scheme is to interchange data of the second bit and data of the third

10 bit in each symbol data. As shown in FIG.9, the third scheme is to interchange data of the first bit and data of the third bit in each symbol data. Arrangement determining section 103 selects any one from among the three schemes. Interchange of the data to vary the bit

15 arrangement as shown in FIGs.7 to 9 is performed in data interchanging section 105.

[0036] When the number of transmissions is three (in a second retransmission), arrangement determining section 103 determines Constellation 3 as a constellation

20 pattern. More specifically, arrangement determining section 103 selects an Inversion method as a data interchanging rule of the constellation pattern. As shown in FIG.10, the Inversion method is changing "0" that is data of the third bit to "1", while changing "1"

25 that is data of the third bit to "0", in each symbol data. Interchanging the data of the third bits by data interchanging section 105 makes it possible to make these

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changes.

[0037] When the number of transmissions is four (in a third retransmission), arrangement determining section 103 determines Constellation 4 as a constellation pattern. More specifically, arrangement determining section 103 selects a Rotational Shift method as a data interchanging rule of the constellation pattern. The Rotational Shift method has two schemes as shown in FIGs.11 and 12. In other words, as shown in FIG.11, the first scheme is to shift data of the first bit to the second bit, shift data of the second bit to the third bit, and further shift data of the third bit to the first bit, in each symbol data. As shown in FIG.12, the second scheme is to shift data of the first bit to the third bit, shift data of the second to the first bit, and further shift data of the third bit to the second bit. Arrangement determining section 103 selects either one from the two schemes. Interchange of the data to vary the bit arrangement as shown in FIGs.11 and 12 is performed in data interchanging section 105.

[0038] When the number of transmission is five (in a fourth retransmission), arrangement determining section 103 determines Constellation 5 as a constellation pattern. More specifically, arrangement determining section 103 selects a Radius Circle Shift method as a data interchanging rule of the constellation pattern. The Radius Circle Shift method has two schemes as shown in

FIGs.13 and 14. In other words, as shown in FIG.13, the first scheme is to rotate each symbol data by two steps counterclockwise in the IQ plane. In addition, one step means rotating some constellation mapping point to

5   adjacent constellation mapping point. As shown in FIG.14, the second scheme is to rotate each symbol data by four steps counterclockwise in the IQ ,plane. Arrangement determining section 103 selects either one from the two schemes. Thus, in the Radius Circle Shift method, by

10   rotating the constellation mapping position of each symbol along the circumference of a circle with an intersection point of the I axis and Q axis as a center in the IQ plane, the constellation mapping point is varied. Shift of each symbol data to vary to the constellation

15   mapping point in FIGs.13 and 14 is performed in mapper section 106.

[0039] When the number of transmissions is six (in a fifth retransmission), arrangement determining section 103 determines Constellation 6 as a constellation pattern.

20   More specifically, arrangement determining section 103 selects a Rotational shift & Inversion method as a data interchanging rule of the constellation pattern. As shown in FIG.15, the Rotational Shift & Inversion method is to shift data of the first bit to the second bit, shift

25   data of the second bit to the third bit, and further shift data of the third bit to the first bit, in each symbol data, while changing "0" that is data of the first bit

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to "1", and changing "1" that is data of the first bit to "0", in each shifted symbol data.

Interchange of the data to vary the bit arrangement as shown in FIG.15 is performed in data interchanging section 105.

[0040] In addition, in the 8PSK modulation scheme, each symbol data has the same amplitude, and an error of each bit is caused by a difference in phase decision region. Meanwhile, in the 16QAM modulation scheme, the phase and amplitude differ between symbol data, and an error of each bit is caused by a difference in amplitude decision region in addition to the difference in phase decision region.

[0041] Thus, according to this Embodiment, since the bit arrangement in each symbol is varied corresponding to the number of retransmissions, a particular bit of each symbol can be prevented from being erroneous repeatedly, and it is thereby possible to prevent the error rate characteristic from degrading and further prevent deterioration of the throughput caused by repeated retransmissions. Further, according to this Embodiment, in the 8PSK modulation scheme where each symbol data has the same amplitude, by simple processing for rotating a phase of each symbol by two steps or four steps, or for varying the bit arrangement in each symbol, it is possible to prevent a particular bit of each symbol from being erroneous repeatedly. Furthermore, according

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to this Embodiment, in the 8PSK modulation scheme
including the same amplitude, when data is retransmitted,
each symbol is mapped in a constellation mapping position
where the phase is rotated by two steps or four steps,
and it is thus possible to transmit each symbol data via
a different propagation path corresponding to the number
of retransmissions. The effect by fading thus differs
corresponding to the number of retransmissions, thereby
enabling the time-space diversity effect to be produced,
and it is possible to prevent an error from concentrating
on particular symbol data.

[0042] In addition, in the above-mentioned Embodiment,
a constellation mapping position of transmission data
is varied in the 8PSK modulation scheme. However, the
invention is not limited thereto, and is applicable to
modulation schemes such as 16PSK, 32PSK, 64PSK and the
like where each symbol data has the same amplitude.
Further, in the above-mentioned Embodiment, symbol data
is rotated by two steps or four steps in the Radius Circle
Shift method, but not limited thereto, and may be rotated
by any steps such as three steps and the like as well
as two steps and four steps. Transmission apparatus 101
and reception apparatus 102 of the above-mentioned
Embodiment are applicable to a base station apparatus
and/or communication terminal apparatus. Further, in
the above-mentioned Embodiment, the constellation
mapping point is varied using either one of the SWAP,

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Inversion, Rotational Shift and Radius Circle Shift methods, but the invention is not limited thereto. The constellation mapping position may be varied in any combinations of the SWAP, Inversion, Rotational Shift

5 and Radius Circle Shift methods. Moreover, in the above-mentioned Embodiment, the number of transmissions is associated with the data interchanging rule as shown in FIG.6. However, the invention is not limited thereto, and association of the number of transmissions and data

10 interchanging rule may be changed flexibly.

[0043] The present application is based on Japanese Patent Application No.2003-341718 filed on September 30, 2003, entire content of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

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Industrial Applicability

[0044] The present invention is suitable for use in a transmission apparatus and transmission method for performing retransmission of erroneous data.

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